

LOKI

AGENT OF ASGARD



ALL-NEW
MARVEL
NOW!

EWING
GARBETT
WOODARD

004

THIS IS THE STORY OF LOKI.

BUT WHICH LOKI?

THE REBORN, REJUVENATED LOKI? THE ONE WHO SEEKS TO CHANGE, WHO MADE A DEAL WITH THE ALL-MOTHER -- RULING TRIUMVIRATE OF ASGARDIA -- TO HAVE ONE OF HIS CRIMES ERASED FROM HISTORY FOR EVERY MISSION HE COMPLETED? THE ONE WHO DELIBERATELY FAILED TO CAPTURE LORELEI, HIS OLD PARTNER IN MALICE AND MISCHIEF? WHO IN THE PROCESS MET VERITY WILLIS, A WOMAN WHO CAN SEE THROUGH ANY LIE, IN ANY FORM? THAT LOKI?

OR THE OTHER LOKI?

THE OLDER LOKI, ANCIENT AND MERCILESS, WITH THE POWER TO WALK THROUGH STORIES AND HISTORIES, TO MEDDLE WITH THEM FOR HIS OWN DARK PURPOSE? OLD LOKI, WHO THROUGH MISCHIEF AND MURDER CREATED GRAM, THE HERO'S BLADE, AT THE DAWN OF ASGARD, AND SAW IT FILLED WITH POWERFUL TRUTH-MAGIC? OLD LOKI, WHO SAW THIS SWORD OF TRUTH SAFELY INTO THE HANDS OF SIGURD THE EVER-GLORIOUS, THAT THE HERO MIGHT CAST IT INTO LEGEND? OLD LOKI, WHO AFTER SIGURD'S FALL, MADE SURE THE SWORD WAS PASSED ON... TO THE YOUNGER LOKI?

(SIGURD STILL WALKS THE EARTH, BY THE WAY. AND HE WANTS HIS SWORD BACK, FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN.)

WHERE COULD SUCH INTRICATE SCHEMES BE LEADING? WHO'S TRICKING WHOM, AND WHY? WHICH LOKI HAS THE ANSWERS?

WHICH LOKI IS THE AGENT OF ASGARD?

THIS IS THE STORY OF LOKI'S LETTER COLUMN.

AFTER LAST MONTH'S EXCITING SALE OF ALL MARVEL'S AD-SPACE, OUR LETTER COLUMN WAS BANISHED BY THE ALL-EDITOR TO THE TWILIGHT REALMS OF WWW.MARVEL.COM/LETTERSPAGES. NOW YOU, THE READERS, MUST QUEST TO THAT WEBSITE TO FIND YOUR MISSIVES ANSWERED BY THE CREATIVE TEAM. DOST THOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE?

ALSO, A GELATINOUS CUBE HAS ENTERED THE ROOM. ROLL 2D6.

**UP A DIFFERENT
MOUNTAIN.**
SOMEWHERE IN TIBET. NOW.



KALUU,
MASTER OF BLACK
MAGIC. MEDITATING
IN A STATE OF
PERFECT SERENITY.



GRAM!

THE
HERO'S
BLADE!

A SWORD
OF TRUTH,
INTERESTING.
FROM THE NORSE
REALMS, I
TAKE IT...?

NATURALLY--FOR
I AM ASGARD'S
GREATEST HERO!
SLAYER OF FAFNIR--
VICTOR OF A
THOUSAND
BATTLES--

PFPT!

MAYBE YOU
WERE HOT STUFF
ONCE...BUT THAT WAS A
LONG TIME AGO, WASN'T
IT? NOW YOU'RE JUST
MAKING YOURSELF
COMFORTABLE.

TRUST
ME, I CAN
SMELL MY
OWN.


WORTH
A SHOT.

FIGURED
IT MIGHT
GET ME A
DISCOUNT.

HMMPH.

HOW'D
YOU COME
BY IT?

WELL, IT'S A
LONG STORY...



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LOKI'S APARTMENT.
MANHATTAN, THEN.

...THE
NORSE GOD
OF MISCHIEF
CAN COOK?

WELL,
ASGARDIAN FOOD
IS MOSTLY SPIT-
ROAST HAUNCH OF
MISCELLANEOUS
ANIMAL... BUT I FIND
MORTAL CUISINE
VASTLY MORE
EXCITING.

SO MANY
DIFFERENT
BREAKFAST
MEATS...

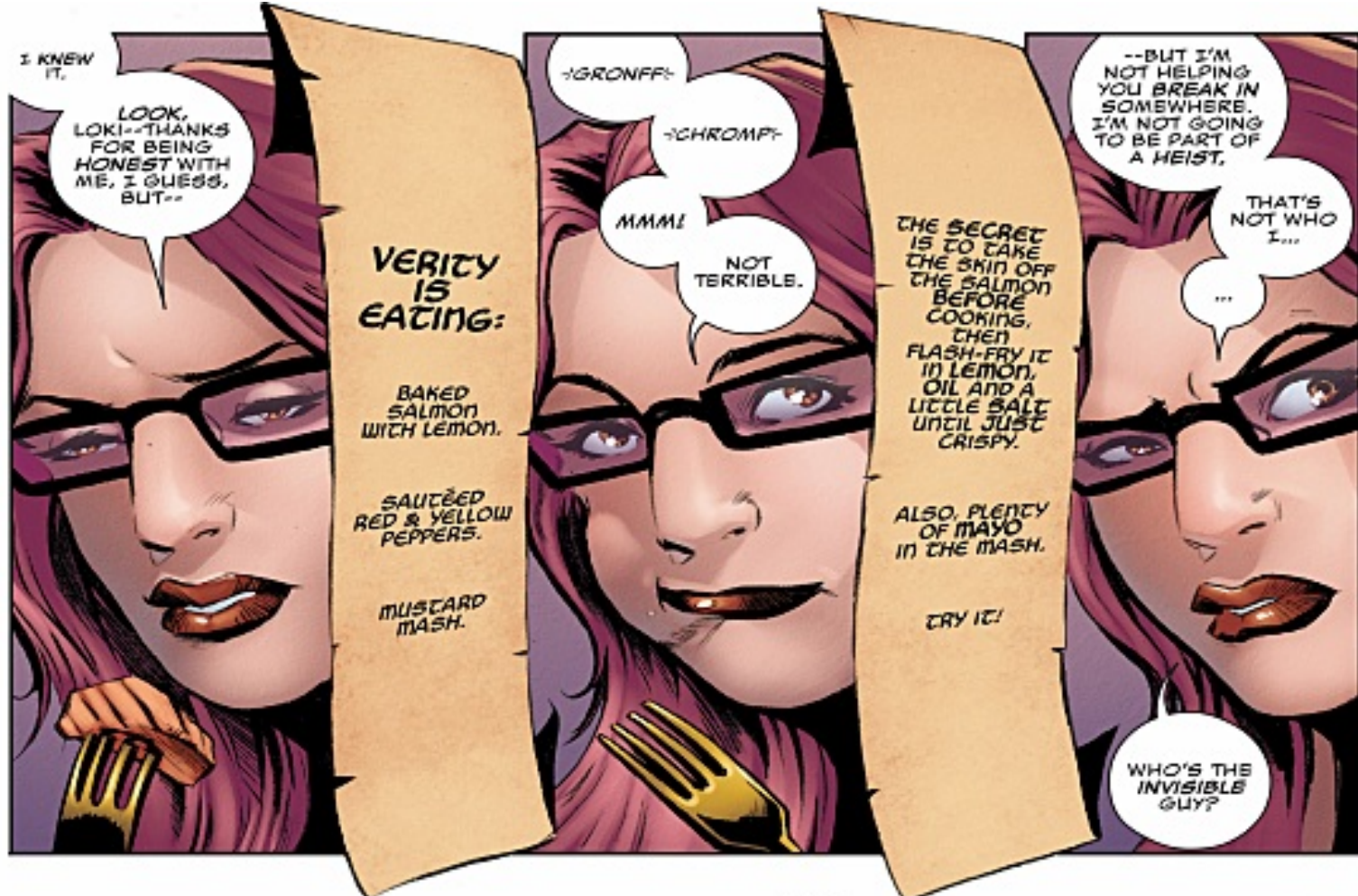
RIGHT, LOOK,
JUST TO GET THIS
OUT OF THE WAY--
AND I WOULDN'T ASK
IF YOU WEREN'T,
YOU KNOW, WHO
YOU ARE...

...BUT WAS
THERE AN
ULTERIOR MOTIVE
FOR ASKING
ME OVER
TONIGHT?

VERITY WILLIS.
CAN SEE THROUGH
ANY LIE SHE'S TOLD.

WE-ELL...







EARLIER.

HMM.

WELL, THIS IS
CERTAINLY
THERAPEUTIC.

WE ARE
NOT AMUSED.
LOKI, YOUR FAILURE
TO CAPTURE
LORELEI WAS...
SURPRISING.

SHE SIMPLY
GOT THE BEST
OF ME, MOTHER.
I'M SURE I'LL HAVE
ANOTHER CHANCE
IN A YEAR OR
SO...

GAIA, FREYJA AND IDUNN.
THE ALL-MOTHER, RULING
TRIUMVIRATE OF ASGARDIA.

A YEAR IS A
LONG TIME IN
POLITICS, LOKI. IN
THE AFFAIRS OF THE
GODS, IT IS AN
ETERNITY.

LET US
HOPE YOU ARE
A LITTLE QUICKER
IN FINDING SIGURD
THE EVER-
GLORIOUS...

PEW
PEW
PEW

WHY,
AGAIN?

WE ALREADY
TOLD YOU, LOKI.
WE WOULD HAVE
OUR WAYWARD
ASGARDIAN HOME.

WHERE WE
CAN KEEP
AN EYE
ON THEM.

STILL...
AREN'T THE EX-
DISCIPLES ALREADY
KEEPING THEIR
EYES ON
SIGURD?

THEY'RE VALKYRIES--
THEY'LL NEVER
MISPLACE HIM, EVEN IF
THEY HAVE DELAYED
THEIR VENGEANCE ON
HIM UNTIL AFTER
HIS DEATH...*

*FOR MORE ON THIS, SEE
NEW MUTANTS #49 (2012).

THERE IS ANOTHER
ASGARDIAN LOOSE ON
MIDGARD, AFTER ALL.
LIVING THE HIGH LIFE,
PLAYING VIDEO
GAMES.

PERHAPS
HE SHOULD
COME HOME,
INSTEAD.

TO
STAY.

DO YOU
FEEL YOU
MIGHT FAIL US
AGAIN, LOKI?

BECAUSE I'M
SURE WE CAN FIND YOU
SOMETHING EASIER.

MESSAGE
RECEIVED,
MOTHER.

LOUD AND
CLEAR.







SMILE
WHEN YOU
SAY THAT,
STRANGER.

LOKI--?

AS LUCK
WOULD HAVE
IT, I'M WEARING
**SEVEN-LEAGUE
BOOTS** THAT CAN
TURN A WASHING
LINE INTO A
SWASHING
LINE.

ALSO
BUCKLING.



WHAT
THE
HELL.

SPOKEN
LIKE A TRUE
HERO!

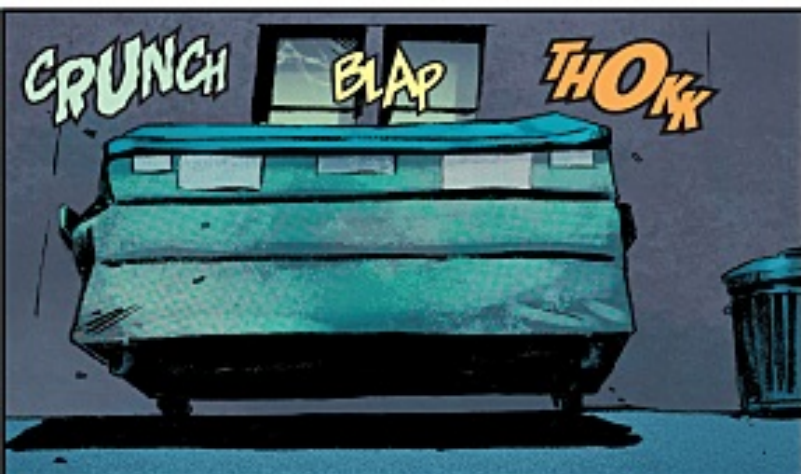
JUST
DON'T
SLIP.



IT'S A
LONG WAY
DOWN, EVEN
FOR YOU--

--AND YOU
DON'T HAVE
MAGIC BOOTS TO
KEEP YOU ON THE
TIGHTROPE.





NOW.

WELL, I'M A
GOD MYSELF,
AND I'VE BEEN
ONE A LOT
LONGER THAN
HIM.

AND NOW
YOU HAVE A
SWORD OF
TRUTH...

RIGHT,
WITH ENOUGH
TRUTH-MAGIC
TO BREAK
ANY LIE.

SO I
CAN BE
SURE YOU
WON'T
CHEAT
ME.

MR. EVIL
MAGICIAN.

I USE MY EVIL
ONLY FOR GOOD
PURPOSE.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT,
SIGURD?

YOU
KNOW THE
WHEEL OF
KARMA?

THE WHEEL
OF DEATH AND
REBIRTH--ONE OF
THE MANY METAPHYSICAL
SYSTEMS OF THIS REALITY.
ENDLESSLY TURNING, AS
HUMANITY ENDLESSLY
TURNS WITHIN IT.

WE DIE
AND ARE REBORN
AT DIFFERENT POINTS
ON THE WHEEL, IN
DIFFERENT REALMS, THE
ANIMAL REALM, THE
HUMAN REALM,
THE REALM OF
GODS.

I'VE
CLEARLY
NEVER
HEARD
OF IT.

HA
HA.

I WANT
ON IT.



...YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR RELIGION?

BECAUSE I THINK YOU CAN DO THAT AT HOME...



NOT ME.

I'M AN ASGARDIAN GOD, REMEMBER--AND A HERO TO BOOT. I'M LOCKED IN--WHEN I DIE, IT'S VALHALLA. NO GETTING OUT OF IT.

AND VALHALLA MEANS VALKYRIES--VALKYRIES WHO'VE SWORN TO REMOVE LITTLE SIGURD WITH A RUSTY SPOON. PROBABLY WORSE.

I CAN'T LOWER THE STAKES. AND I CAN'T WIN.

BUT IF I CAN GET OUT OF THE GAME...

IF THERE'S A WAY A GOD COULD REINCARNATE INTO SOMETHING ELSE...

MR. SIGURD--YOUR SCHEME IS MAD, CULTURALLY IGNORANT AND QUITE POSSIBLY SACRILEGIOUS.

NATURALLY, I'LL HELP.



BUT FIRST, LET'S PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE...



I WILL PUT SIGURD ON THE WHEEL OF REINCARNATIONS.



IN THIS I CANNOT LIE.



THERE. YOUR TURN.

...WHAT?



WELL, HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT LYING?

...

THAT IS LOKI'S SWORD...



OKAY. FINE.

"I REALLY AM SIGURD."



HOW'S THAT?



PERFECT.

YOUR SOUL
WILL BE SAFE FROM
THE VALKYRIES YOU
WRONGED, O
GREAT HERO--

--BECAUSE IT
WILL BURN FOR
ALL ETERNITY--IN THE
TORTURE-PITS OF

MEPHISTO!

AH
HA HA HA
HAAA!





GOOD OL' KALUU'S NOT HOME, BY THE WAY. HE'S BUSY WITH THE END OF HUMANITY.*

BUT--YOU COULDN'T LIE--

THE SWORD--

*IN MIGHTY AVENGERS! MISS IT NEVER!



I DIDN'T LIE. I NEVER SAID WHO I WAS, DID I?

AND PART OF YOUR TORMENT WILL INVOLVE A DEVICE I INVENTED--AS IT ROTATES, IT WHIPS YOU WITH FLOWERS MADE OF HORSE BRIDLES.

IT'S THAT KIND OF "WHEEL OF REIN CARNATIONS."



RRRAAARHH--

AH-AH-AH. NONE OF THAT. YOU'VE ALREADY AGREED TO IT.



BEHOLD! OUR CONTRACT.

no--

MARKED WITH YOUR BLOOD AND MINE-- A STANDARD INFERNAL PACT.

Contract



A TERRIBLE DEAL, NATURALLY, BUT IGNORANCE OF THE TERMS IS NO EXCUSE--

--AS CLEARLY STATED IN PARAGRAPH FOUR, CLAUSE...



...HMM.

THIS ISN'T MY CONTRACT.







VERITY WILLIS.
HUMAN LIE DETECTOR.

LORELEI.
TRICKSTER, LIAR, THIEF.

THOR.
GOD OF THUNDER.

...YOU
ARE MY
AGENTS.

SO.
WHO'S
WITH ME?

NEXT: YOU DON'T BRING
A SWORD TO A LOKI FIGHT.



